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(54) AN IMPROVED BOTTOM LATH ASSEMBLY FOR A ROLLER BLIND

(71) We, BEAUTY BLINDS LIMITED, a British Company, of Priory Works, Gundry Lane, Bridport, Dorset, formerly of 23 Horn Street, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The invention relates to a bottom lath assembly for a roller blind.

There are many different types of constructions of bottom laths for roller blinds, which constructions range from a simple strip of wood to which the fabric of the blind is attached to sophisticated assemblies including hollow structures within which the lower edge portion of the blind fabric is located. The purpose of the bottom lath in a roller blind is to hold the fabric of the blind taut when the blind is extended and also so that when the blind is being rolled up crinkles in the fabric will be prevented. A further purpose is to enable a decorative finish to be applied to the lower end of the blind.

It has previously been proposed to make the bottom lath of a roller blind hollow with a longitudinal slit extending therethrough and into this slit extends the selvedge of a decorative finish, thus retaining the decorative finish in position. However, due to the thick and sometimes woolly nature of the decorative finish material, it is extremely difficult to insert the selvedge into the bottom lath.

It is the main object of this invention to provide a bottom lath assembly for a roller blind which enables any decorative fringe desired to be applied thereto, to be applied in a simple and expeditious manner.

According to the present invention there is provided a bottom lath assembly for a roller blind, including an elongate plastics section which forms a lath, means for attaching the lath along the lower edge of a sheet of fabric forming the blind, the lath having downwardly extending jaws, and an elongate strip having a first part adapted to be retained within the said jaws and a second part lying

outside the lath, a decorative fringe being attached to said second part.

Preferably, the lath is extruded in a suitable plastics material and the elongate strip is also of extruded plastics. The selvedge of the decorative fringe may be adhesively secured to the second part of the elongate strip.

One embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, and with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bottom lath assembly in accordance with the invention with a decorative fringe applied thereto; and

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of the assembly of Figure 1 with the assembly attached to a fabric of a roller blind.

In the drawing, a bottom lath assembly essentially includes two components, namely, a lath 1 and an elongate strip 2 capable of being retained by the lath 1. The lath 1 is an elongate section of plastics material which may be extruded and in cross-section is hollow and generally in the form of an oval with an intermediate web 3. The upper part of the lath has a longitudinally extending slit 4 thereby forming two upwardly extending jaws 5 between which, as will be seen from Figure 2, the edge portion 6 of a sheet of fabric 7, which forms the blind, may be inserted.

This lower edge portion 6 may have reinforcing means 8 adhesively secured thereto so as to retain this edge 6 within the lath 1.

The lath 1 also has downwardly extending jaws 9 formed by the provision of a slit 10 and within these jaws is retained a first part 11 of the elongate strip 2, the first part 11 having an integral second part 12 to which the selvedge 13 of a decorative fringe 14 is attached, for example, by an adhesive.

The elongate strip may be formed of such a plastics material that the part 11, which is to be retained by the lower jaws 9 of the lath, is relatively rigid and thereby easily inserted within the jaws, for example, by sliding insertion from one end, whereas the second part 12 of the elongate strip 2 is comparatively

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flexible to give mobility to the fringe attached thereto.

5 The bottom lath assembly may be modified as desired within the scope of the invention, for example, the upper part of the bottom lath itself may not be in the form of jaws but any other type of means for attaching the fabric of the blind thereto may be used. Also, the lower jaws may not be continuous but
10 may be intermittent.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

15 1. A bottom lath assembly for a roller blind, including an elongate plastics section which forms a lath, means for attaching the lath along the lower edge of a sheet of fabric forming the blind, the lath having downwardly extending jaws, and an elongate strip having a
20 first part adapted to be retained within the said jaws and a second part lying outside the lath, a decorative fringe being attached to said second part.

25 2. A bottom lath assembly as claimed in Claim 1, in which the elongate plastics section is hollow and substantially oval in cross-section with a horizontal intermediate web, the upper and lower parts of the lath having longitudinally extending slits forming

upwardly and downwardly extending jaws respectively. 30

3. A bottom lath assembly as claimed in Claim 1, in which the first part of the elongate strip is more rigid than the second part thereof. 35

4. A bottom lath assembly as claimed in either Claim 1 or Claim 3, in which the second part of the elongate strip has the selvedge of a decorative finish attached thereto. 40

5. A bottom lath assembly for a roller blind substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

6. A roller blind having a bottom lath assembly as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims. 45

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